

# The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Winter 2016

## Super Bowl L (Yes, that's 50) Preview



By Evan Volkman  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here we are at the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl.

After a last minute stunning interception by Denver cornerback Bradley Roby, the Denver Broncos sealed a 20-18 victory over the Patriots.

This was the 17th meeting between Tom Brady and Peyton Manning and will be the last. Peyton Manning announced this past August that he would be retiring after the end of this season. He missed seven games but came back right in time for the playoffs and looked just as he did before his injury.

Peyton Manning is 40 on March 24, and has gotten more and more fragile over the past four years. Denver has relied more than ever on their run game, and with the emergence of C.J. Anderson, they are doing just fine. Denver has used Owen Daniels similar to how New England uses Rob Gronkowski.

Denver has put up the best defense in the NFL for the 2015 season, with only 283.1 yards per game allowed.



On the other side, the Carolina Panthers are putting up just incredible stats. After a 15-1 season, and Cam Newton likely being this year's MVP, viewers in for a good game. The last time Denver was in the Super Bowl (two years ago) they drew in 114.6 million viewers. Last year had 141.5 million viewers!

This year's Super Bowl will be held at Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers. Levi's Stadium is the newest home to an NFL team other than the new LA Rams home which is still in the works.

The Carolina Panthers have been playing by the motto of "Keep Pounding" and motivation after losing in the playoffs for 3 years in a row. Cam Newton has learned and mastered the offensive scheme given and is one of the most versatile QBs in the league. Linebacker Luke Kuechly is also incredibly talented 591 career tackles and 11 interceptions in just four years. Josh Norman has emerged as an elite cornerback and has continued his powerful throughout the playoffs.

The key for Carolina in this game will be to hold down Denver end pressure Peyton Manning and to use their run game to their advantage.





## The Tusker Tribune Special Feature: Matt Kushner's "Spaced-Out Series"

### Chapter 9: A Brief History

"Daddy! You awake!"

I awoke to see my daughter lying down in a machine, turning her head to the left, towards me. When I looked at my sleeping arrangements, they appeared the same.

"You're alive!" I started laughing, but not my usual 'I just figured out how to laugh' laugh, but my 'oh my God you are alive!' laugh. Out of everything that could've happened, I find my daughter in a torture room! Who could've thought! The humor! In all seriousness, humor is the only thing that has let me get through the day. Even though a scientist's humor is *not* good, as I've been told... it kept me from sanity.

The pony-aliens entered the room. "Look at your world, Crevasse. Look how polluted it is. Look how our once-good slaves turned against us."

I looked away from the window. My daughter, on the other hand, was looking at it, half interested, half confused at what was going on. "I said *LOOK!*" My torture bed turned my head towards the window. I saw the chaos of

Washington D.C. spurring everywhere, and the same pony aliens shooting down homes. I saw S.W.A.T. teams shooting at hovering vehicles,

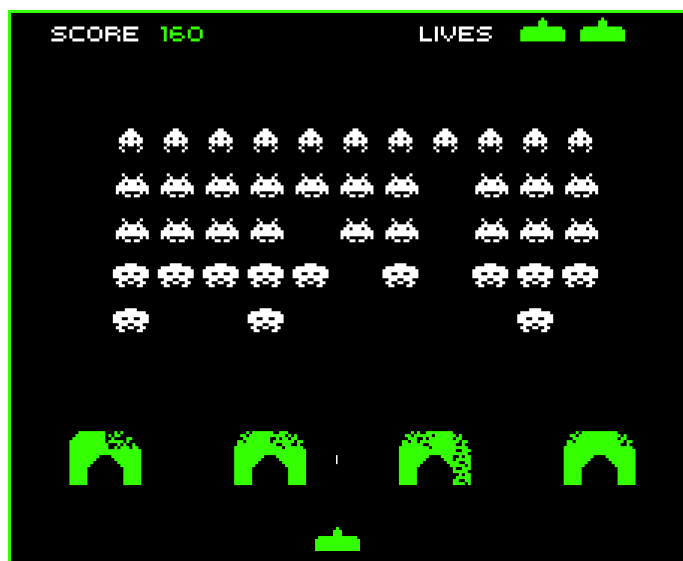
but to prevail, only getting shot by the vehicles a second later. And I saw the president, leading frightened people into the White House.

"Why are you controlling the president, probably leading lots of humans to go to your mind control things? Why are you killing lots of innocent slaves?"

"Well, human, we once had slaves. They were Earthlings. They built us great monuments, like the one you call The Pyramids. And then, they rebelled.

We were weak then, you see. And so, they won, and started to ruin Earth. Then you came along. You helped us. You let us get into a human, which, eventually led to this. So, is this brief history of our race good enough for you? Crevasse? Where are you?"

I was, in fact, running out the door, since the alien turned off the security mechanism when it came to talk to us.



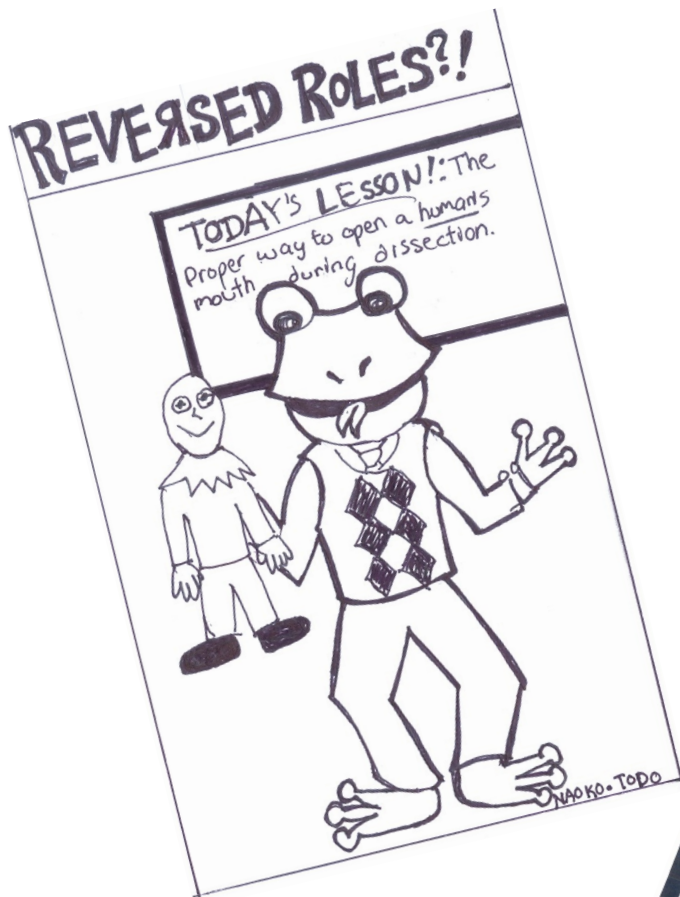
### 2016 SMS Calendar of Events

- February 5: 7th Grade Social, 7-9 p.m.
- February 25: 6th Grade Social, 7-9 p.m.
- March 24-28: Spring Recess!
- April 22-25: Holiday Recess!
- May 27-30: Memorial Day Weekend
- June 23: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!



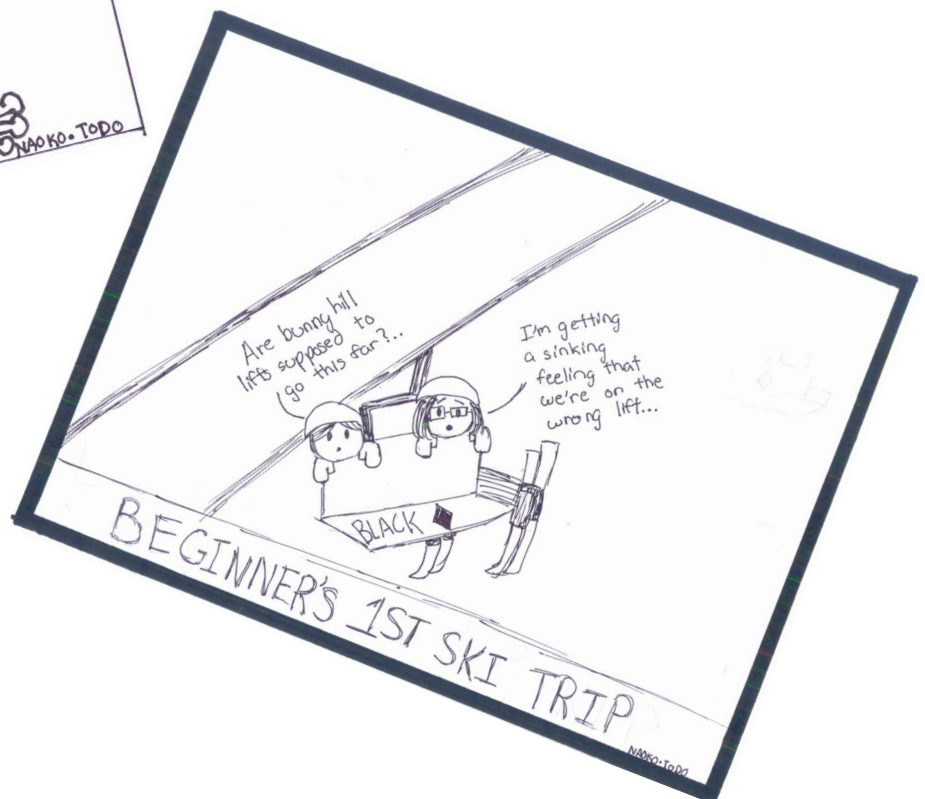
# The Tusker Tribune

## "Comics and Cartoons"



The Tusker Tribune welcomes artwork of all kinds—comic strips, cartoons, and original drawings and sketches. Submissions can be given to Mr. Pappas in room 305 on paper, or sent to DPappas@somersschools.org as a .jpeg file. All drawings MUST be signed neatly by the artist. **PLEASE DRAW YOUR ARTWORK AS DARK AS POSSIBLE.**

Both of this week's submissions are from 7th grader Naoko Toda





# SMS and SHS Bands Hold Joint Rehearsal!

**By Mr. Paul Riley,  
SMS Music Teacher  
Tusker Tribune  
Contributor**

Mr. Reynolds, the high school band director, and I had planned on a doubling seminar for 7-12th grade students.

We had booked a group of professional musicians to give a brief concert

and then demonstrate how to learn to play more than one instrument well (i.e., flute players learning the saxophone, oboe, bassoon, etc.)

Unfortunately, the professionals were stranded in Chicago this weekend, so we postponed the seminar.

Instead, we quickly organized a joint rehearsal including the same students. I brought the most challenging repertoire that my middle school band plays.

The high school

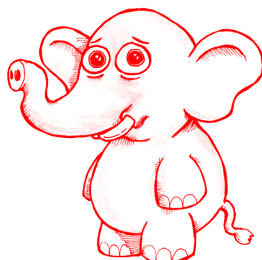
band musicians had to "sight-read" the music, while the middle school musicians got to hear how more mature players would interpret their repertoire. We had more than 100 musicians in the room.

By the end of the rehearsal, through group was playing beautifully!



## **The Tusker Tribune Staff**

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The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from  
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# SMS Ski Club Goes Down Hill (and that's good)



By Noelle DeMarinis  
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Yipee!!!"

Children zoom passed the lodge at high speed. Snow is spraying everywhere, and kids are screaming, laughing and giggling. The air is crackling with excitement.

This is the first outing of the Somers Ski Club. The Somers Ski Club is all about unwinding from school, having fun and spending time with friends!

The club is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and consists of two trips to Catamount Mountain.

Not only is skiing with your friends extremely fun, but the bus ride is hilarious! Trust me, everyone has a blast and is exhausted by the end of the day. Even though it saddens me to think that this weekend will be the last trip, I can't wait to be back on the slopes with friends!

Catamount bring it on!



## POETRY *In Motion*



by Julianna Aiello

### Snow as person

Snow

It was a beauty;  
one that is unique,  
different,  
special.

They all  
band to-  
gether;  
like an army.  
They have beat us many  
times.



Snow is free willing;  
goes wherever.  
Tests to see the  
boundaries of people;  
on the branches, roads,  
houses

Like a fog that covers eve-  
rything;  
swallows people whole.  
It kills, fights, breeds.

They all have a  
Personality.  
Soft, gentle,  
hard, icy, mean.  
Hail, binding.

Oh, my friend the snow!